

Midway's Swiss Bear

Henry Kohler Memorialized in Bronze



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Wave Staff Writer

Zermatt Resort has chosen to place a remembrance of Midway's Swiss Bear in the center of the entrance to its five star hotel, called Der Baer (The Bear). Zermatt has also chosen the Swiss Bear as its logo.

Robert Fuller, resort developer, explained the idea for the bear came while brainstorming ideas for the center of a fountain in front of the hotel in the old Swiss town style.

In Switzerland, fountains can be found about every two blocks. Fountains represent the prosperity of a town, the more a town has, the more water it has. The fountains were developed around springs. A well was created for drinking water and an octagonal basin surrounded the fountain to collect water.

Fountains were a central gathering place for the community. Towns people came to get drinking water from the well and do their laundry in the collected water. Different images important to the Swiss were considered for Zermatt's fountain, such as

the goat and the lion, but the bear was settled on as the most obvious choice for several reasons.

Most of Midway's early Swiss residents came from Bern, Switzerland.

Fuller's own great grandfather Schneitter was one of the original pioneer settlers in Fort Midway. Bern literally means "The Bear State."

Bern's flag has a bear symbol, several other Swiss states use the bear symbol as well. Bern's central fountain is graced with a very stoic bear all dressed for combat. Fuller described it with a face guard and a helmet, holding a shield and a sword.

Also, a beloved Midway resident,

Henry Kohler, served an LDS mission to Switzerland and learned to play the accordion while there.

Kohler, who passed away several years ago, used to dress up annually and ride in the Swiss Days parade as the Swiss Bear. He would greet everyone jovially and play his accordion.

Many families in Midway were



Henry Kohler

treated to a special visit from the Midway Bear, who would play, sing and dance for the evening's entertainment.

At Zermatt, decisions were made about how the bear should look, what it should wear and what it should be doing, which led them to think of Midway's Swiss Bear, Henry Kohler.

"Our bear looks a lot like a real bear," Fuller stated, "but it's fun and it's friendly. The Bear plays its accordion off to the side and while it looks down at the people who come to visit. We wanted a bear to fit the purpose of (Zermatt) resort. We wanted to create an attitude of welcome to everybody that comes here."

When the original cast was complete, Kohler was still alive. Fuller knocked on his door and asked Kohler, "You know what people around here think of you as don't you?"

Kohler, in his modest way, said, "Oh, I don't know about that."



Fuller took Kohler to his car, pulled out the cast and showed it to him.

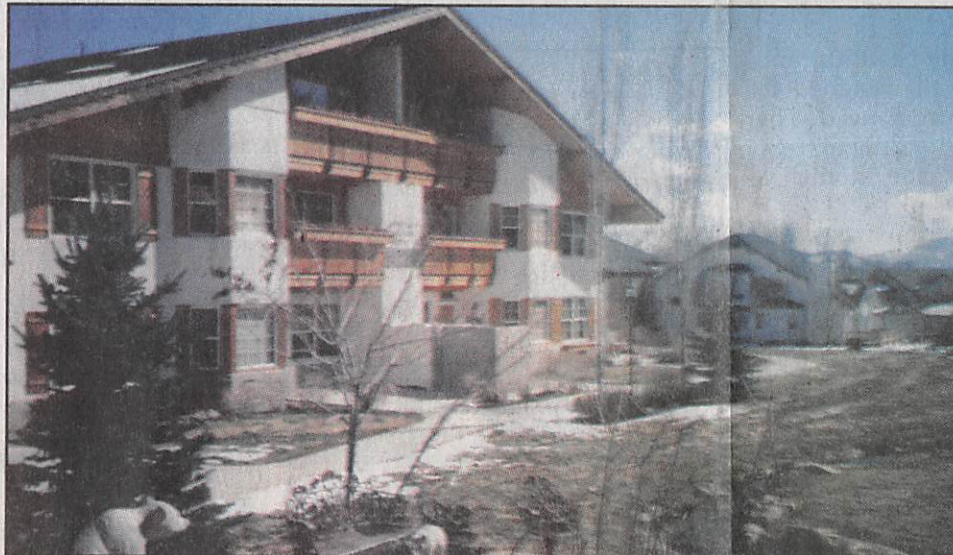
"Is that me?" Kohler asked.

"Yes," Fuller answered. "You're the Midway Bear."

Kohler's eyes swelled up and got all watery. Then he cried.

Fuller told Kohler, "This town's a special place, you are part of its history and you ought to be immortalized."

A lifesize bronze sculpture is currently being sculpted by artist and former Heber City resident D. J. Bawden. Bawden's Swiss Bear will be completed in about eight to ten months. The Bear will be about seven to eight feet



Above: Midway's Zermatt Resort. Above right: Robert Fuller holds the miniature version of the lifesize bronze statue of The Bear that will grace Zermatt's fountain.

Wave photos by Robin Johnson

HEBER CITY – The first BeeHive Assisted Living Home opens Friday March 16 as part of the new development "My Mountain Home," located at 905 S. Southfield Road, in Heber City.

The public is invited to tour the home, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

A Grand Opening Open House will be held March 28, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Refreshments will be served and free senior citizen services will be offered.

This new home provides luxury living in a family environment for those that do not require nursing home care.

Each person has there own

private room and bath, phone and cable hookups and receives pampered personalized attention.

"I've lived in other facilities but this is truly a home. After, moving to BeeHive, I wouldn't live anywhere else.

"Everyone is so caring," says Andrian Herbert, long-time resident of BeeHive. "It is our goal to make everyone feel the way Adrian does.

"We want each person to become a part of our family, and we hope to become an important part of theirs," says Ric Tanner owner.

The new residents are from Heber City, Park City, Midway and Kamas.

"We have been looking forward to this for some time. It is very exciting to finally be able to provide this needed service to Summit and Wasatch counties.

"We have a very experienced staff of CNA's and a Registered Nurse. They have over 18 years of combined experience," says Ric Tanner.

The pampered personal attention offered in this new BeeHive Home includes three home-cooked meals and snacks in the afternoon such as home made bread, cookies or fresh fruit in the afternoon.

Everyone's personal laundry is done separately, folded and put away, a pharmacy delivers medications direct to home at discount prices, and the home is equipped with a preventative health system that monitors seven vital signs of each person every day. There is also an individual emergency call system for each person.

This home is beautiful and is extremely well designed to accommodate every need. The furnishings are traditional, very attractive and the home is bright and cheerful.

The entertainment center with large screen TV, organ, floral sofas, and glide rockers are well suited for the elderly.

The home is furnished with solid oak furniture throughout the private rooms, family and dinning areas.

The walls are decorated with original watercolor paintings of scenes from around the valley. The modern deluxe kitchen is state of the art for cooking.

The laundry facilities are



Wave photo by Cara Webster

Residents at the new BeeHive Assisted Living Home in Heber City meet in the facility's common room.

convenient and very efficient with double stack gas washers and dryers.

The entire home is equipped with a fire sprinkler system for the safety of each resident.

Other services include 24-hour CNA care, RN monthly

activity that senior citizens like to do. We always celebrate birthdays, holidays and anniversaries in special ways.

In addition, we have had picnics, plays, Hawaiian luau's, painting, crafts, quilt making, service projects for Primary

Children's Medical Center and personal history videos.

We are also well associated with the local Senior Citizens Center that have great activities and programs. It is very important

to us that we create an active environment," says Tanner.

There are over 30 BeeHive elderly assisted living homes in Utah and 90 across the western United States.

The "My Mountain Home" development when completed

next year will include two assisted living homes, a dementia home and 18 independent living retirement apartments.

For reservations or a tour of the home call (435) 657-2536. You can also visit BeeHive Homes web-site at www.beehivehomes.com.

Amenities and Services: Private Room/Baths, Home Cooked Meals, Laundry and Linens, Piano or Organ, RN Monthly Assessments, Television/Cable Hookup, All aspects of daily living, Furnished and Unfurnished Rooms, Disposable Goods discounts, Senior Center Affiliations, Hospice Care, Affiliation, Private Phone Hookup, State of the Art Daily Vital Sign Monitoring for Preventative Health, Medication Assistance, Housekeeping, Activities and Outings, 24 Hour CNA Care, Fixed Monthly Fee and Home-health Affiliation.



Wave photo by Cara Webster

Thelma Mair and Tava Witt.